

Attorney Docket: 01066
U.S. Application No. 09/923,320 Examiner NGUYEN Art Unit 2154
Response to July 31, 2007 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of notification ~~for notifying an offline user~~, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;
comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of an ~~the~~ offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and
when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a caller identification message ~~notification~~ to the offline user [,];
receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;
receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the website, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the website, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the website, the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to the buddies in the buddy list;
converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;
delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy list;
receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;
prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and
broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list,

wherein the notification informs the buddy ~~offline user~~ ~~of an amount~~ of activity in the website.

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise a number of bids submitted ~~with a certain amount of time~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising reporting the caller identification message ~~indication~~ to another offline user.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.

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11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
12. (Cancel)
13. (Cancel)
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein receiving the buddy's response indication comprises receiving audio inputs ~~of the offline user~~ and converting the audio inputs to text for transmission through the global computer network ~~to the online user~~.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein receiving the buddy's response indication comprises receiving audio inputs ~~of the offline user~~, recording the audio inputs as a digital audio files, and transmitting the digital audio files through the global computer network to the ~~online user~~ buddies in the buddy list.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 8, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of an interactive pager and a wireless access protocol device, and
wherein receiving the buddy's response indication comprises receiving an input of the offline user from the interactive pager or the wireless access protocol device, and
~~wherein reporting the indications comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through the global computer network.~~
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the input comprises one of a standard message and a customized message.

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18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the buddy's response indication comprises the notification criteria and a time and a date that the notification criteria were was satisfied.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising requiring the offline user to provide a passcode before delivering forwarding the offline communication.
20. (Currently Amended) A computer providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the computer performing:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;

when a user logs in, comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and

when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a caller identification message notification to the offline user [,.];

receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;

receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the website, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the website, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the website, the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to the buddies in the buddy list;

converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;

delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy list;

receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;

prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and

broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list.

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wherein the notification informs the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
22. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
23. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
24. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the computer further performs sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
25. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.
26. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.
27. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.

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28. (Cancel)
29. (Cancel)
30. (Currently Amended) A system providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the system ~~performing~~ storing instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;

comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and

when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a caller identification message ~~an offline communication~~ to the offline user [,.];

receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;

receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the website, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the website, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the website, the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to the buddies in the buddy list;

converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;

delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy list;

receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;

prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and

broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list

~~wherein the offline communication notifies the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.~~

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31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, further comprising instructions for wherein the system further performs sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.
36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.
37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, further comprising instructions for wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
38. (Cancel)
39. (Cancel)

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40. (Currently Amended) A system for notifying an offline user of an online interaction, the system comprising:
- (a) means for retrieving notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to a website;
 - (b) means for monitoring a total number of users who log in to the website;
 - (c) means for comparing the total number of logged in users to the notification criteria; and
 - (d) when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then means for sending a caller identification message notification to the offline user that the total number of users logged in to the website exceeds the preset amount, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user and informing the offline user of an amount of activity in the website;
 - (e) means for receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;
 - (f) means for receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the website, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the website, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the website, the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to the buddies in the buddy list;
 - (g) means for converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;
 - (h) means for delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy list;
 - (i) means for receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;
 - (j) means for prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and

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(k) means for broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the website is one of a chat room, a game site, and an auction.
42. (Cancel)
43. (Cancel)
44. (Cancel)
45. (Cancel)
46. (Cancel)
47. (Cancel)
48. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline user of an interaction in which the offline user could participate, wherein the interaction occurs on an instant messaging service, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users that log into the instant messaging service;
when the total number of logged in users exceeds a predefined amount, then
sending a caller identification message to the offline user;

receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;
receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the instant messaging
service, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the
instant messaging service, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for
buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the
instant messaging service, the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to
the buddies in the buddy list;

converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;
delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy
list;

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receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;

prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and

broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list

~~when the total number of logged in users exceeds a predefined amount, then sending a notification to the offline user informing the offline user of an amount of activity in the instant messaging service;~~

~~receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will join the instant messaging service; and~~

~~reporting the indication to users logged into the instant messaging service.~~

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline user of activities occurring on an auction website, the method comprising:

retrieving notification criteria under which to notify the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the auction website;

monitoring a total number of users who log in to the auction website;

comparing the total number of logged in users to the preset amount; and

when the total number of logged in users exceeds a predefined amount, then sending a caller identification message to the offline user;

receiving a response to the caller identification message using off-hook signaling;

receiving a monitoring notification from an operator of the auction website, the monitoring notification informing of a particular user that has logged into the auction website, the monitoring notification identifying contact information for buddies in a buddy list who wish to be informed of the particular user's entry into the auction website,

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the monitoring notification comprising text to be delivered to the buddies in the buddy list;

converting the text in the monitoring notification to an audible message;

delivering the audible message to a telephone number of a buddy in the buddy list;

receiving the buddy's response to the audible message via an interface to an interactive voice response unit;

prefacing the response with an explanation of why the buddies will receive the buddy's response; and

broadcasting the buddy's response to the buddies in the buddy list

~~when the activities satisfy the notification criteria, sending a notification to the offline user informing the offline user of a level of activity in the auction website.~~

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the notification criteria ~~are one~~ comprises at least one of:

when a bid is entered that exceeds a high bid of the offline user, and
when the number of bids entered within a duration exceeds a preset amount.

53. (Cancel)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising reporting a high bid from the offline user to users logged into the auction website.

55. (Cancel)

56. (Cancel)

57. (Cancel)

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58. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for notifying an offline user of notification, the method~~ comprising:

receiving an Internet Protocol call;

determining that the call is unanswered;

sending an offline notification that a caller is attempting to call the offline user through a global computer network;

receiving a response from the offline user indicating whether or not the offline user will accept the call; and

reporting the response to the caller;

receiving a logon request from the offline user; and

receiving a request to accept the call from the caller

~~monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;~~

~~comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and~~

~~when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a notification to the offline user;~~

~~sending an offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone;~~

~~receiving an indication from the offline user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website; and~~

~~reporting the indication to the online user;~~

~~wherein the notification informs the offline user of activity in the website.~~